

Message Text

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61

ORIGIN EUR-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, US, CASC, CPRS (DAVIS, WILLIAM A.)

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF AMCITS AT MOSCOW AIRPORT

REF: MOSCOW 8406, STATE 138515

1. MR. AND MRS. DAVIS RETURNED TO CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA ON JULY 23. DEPARTMENT OFFICER TELEPHONED THEM ON JULY 24.

2. MR. DAVIS SAID THAT HE AND HIS WIFE HAD REQUESTED VISAS VALID TO ENTER THE USSR BETWEEN JUNE 29 AND JULY 6. WHEN MR. AND MRS DAVIS ARRIVED AT MOSCOW AIRPORT ON JUNE 30 THEY WERE TOLD THAT THEIR VISAS WERE VALID FOR ENTRY BETWEEN JULY 29 AND AUGUST 6. THEY WERE NOT RPT NOT QUOTE LOCKED IN A ROOM UNQUOTE AS REPORTED IN STATE REFTEL BUT, RATHER, WERE LOCKED ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE AIRPORT TRANSIT HOTEL. MR. DAVIS SAID HE WAS ADVISED BY HIS RUSSIAN GUIDE NOT TO CALL THE US EMBASSY. HE DID NOT INSIST UPON CALLING THE EMBASSY AND BELIEVES THAT, IF HE HAD INSISTED, HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO PLACE A CALL.

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3. MR. DAVIS PLACES MOST OR ALL OF THE BLAME FOR THIS

TRAVEL MIX-UP ON AMERICAN EXPRESS WHICH, HE THINKS, SHOULD HAVE NOTICED THE MISTAKE IN HIS VISA BEFORE HE AND HIS WIFE ARRIVED IN MOSCOW. MR. DAVIS SAYS HE IS TAKING LEGAL ACTION AGAINST AMERICAN EXPRESS.

4. DEPARTMENT OFFICER INFORMED A SOVIET EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER ABOUT THE DAVISES' PROBLEM. THE OFFICER EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THE WRONG DATES HAD BEEN PLACED IN THE DAVISES' VISAS AND THAT THE DAVISES HAD BEEN INCONVENIENCED BY THEIR DETENTION AT THE MOSCOW AIRPORT HOTEL.

5. IN VIEW OF MR. DAVIS' STATEMENTS TO DEPARTMENT OFFICER, IT APPEARS THAT WE DO NOT HAVE STRONG CASE THAT ARTICLE 12, PARAGRAPH 1 OF CONSULAR CONVENTION WAS VIOLATED. NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY MAY WISH, IN ITS DISCRETION, TO BRING THE PROBLEM OF THE DAVISES' DETENTION TO THE ATTENTION OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES ON AN APPROPRIATE OCCASION. EMBASSY MAY ALSO WISH TO COMPLAIN ABOUT ACTION OF INTOURIST GUIDE IN ADVISING AGAINST CALLING EMBASSY. ROGERS

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